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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 26

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

Rapporteur: Mr. François-Xavier NGOUBEYOU

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* Documents E/CN.4/1994/L.10 and addenda contained the chapters of the report relating to the organization of the session and the various items on the agenda. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for action by, and other matters of concern to, the Economic and Social Council, are contained in documents E/CN.4/1994/L.11 and addenda.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on Human Rights held its fiftieth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 31 January to 11 March 1994. It held 69 meetings (E/CN.4/1994/SR.1-69) 1/ during the session.

2. The session was opened by Mr. Ennaceur, Chairman of the Commission at its forty-ninth session, who made a statement. The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights also addressed the Commission at its 1st meeting.

3. In connection with the fiftieth anniversary of the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission heard a recording of the first session of the Commission on Human Rights, in 1946.

4. The Commission was given a demonstration of the CD ROM system.

B. Attendance

5. The session was attended by representatives of States members of the Commission, by observers from other States Members of the United Nations, by observers from non-member States and by representatives of the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations, national liberation movements and non-governmental organizations. An attendance list is given in annex I to the present report.

C. Election of officers

6. At its 1st meeting, on 31 January 1994, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman:	Mr. Peter Paul van Wulfften Palthe (Netherlands)
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. Romulus Neagu (Romania)
	Mr. José Urrutia (Peru)
	Mr. Minoru Endo (Japan)
Rapporteur:	Mr. François-Xavier Ngoubeyou (Cameroon)

D. Agenda

7. Also at its 1st meeting, the Commission had before it the provisional agenda of the fiftieth session (E/CN.4/1994/1/Rev.1 and Add.1), drawn up, in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, on the basis of the provisional agenda considered by

the Commission at its forty-ninth session in accordance with paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII).

8. The Commission had before it the following documents:

Letter dated 25 November 1993 from the Coordinator for the International Year of the Family addressed to the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights (E/CN.4/1994/89);

Letter dated 8 December 1993 from the Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Human Rights and Ethnic Relations of the Republic of Georgia, addressed to the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights (E/CN.4/1994/90).

9. At its 16th meeting, on 10 February 1994, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda as set out in document E/CN.4/1994/1/Rev.1, amended as follows:

(a) The subject of "International Year of the Family" was incorporated in agenda item 11 (e);

(b) The "Follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights" was incorporated in agenda item 23;

(c) The following agenda items were renumbered accordingly.

10. The agenda, as amended, was adopted without a vote (E/CN.4/1994/1/Rev.2). For the text as adopted, see annex II to the present report.

E. Organization of work

11. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 February 1994, the Commission considered the organization of work.

12. The Commission had before it the following documents:

Report on the situation of human rights in Guatemala, prepared by Ms. Mónica Pinto, Independent Expert, pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/88 (E/CN.4/1994/10);

Report of the Independent Expert, Mr. Pedro Nikken, on developments in the human rights situation in El Salvador, prepared pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/93 and Economic and Social Council decision 1993/284 (E/CN.4/1994/11).

13. Bearing in mind the priority of the items and the availability of the relevant documentation, the Commission accepted the recommendation of its officers that the following agenda items should be considered concurrently: items 4 and 9; items 5, 6 and 14; items 7, 8, 15 and 16; items 11 and 19; and items 13, 18 and 20. The Commission further agreed to consider the agenda items

in the following order: 4, 9; 5, 6, 14; 7, 8, 15, 16; 13, 18, 20; 17; 10; 11, 19; 12 (b); 12; 22, 23; 24; and 25, 26.

14. The Commission approved an additional meeting for the open-ended working group on the drafting of a declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms and for the working group on the draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

15. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 February 1994, the Commission accepted the recommendation of its officers regarding limitation of the frequency and duration of statements. Members of the Commission were limited to one statement of 15 minutes or two statements of 10 minutes per item. Observers and non-governmental organizations were limited to one statement of 10 minutes per item. Observer States and liberation movements mentioned in reports submitted to the Commission were limited to one statement of 15 minutes or two statements of 10 minutes under the item concerned. It was also agreed that, with regard to rights of reply, the practice followed by the Third Committee of the General Assembly, namely a limitation to two replies, 5 minutes for the first and 3 minutes for the second, at the end of the day, would be observed.

16. At the same meeting, upon the recommendation of its officers, the Commission decided to invite a number of experts, special rapporteurs, special representatives and chairmen-rapporteurs of working groups to participate in the meetings at which their reports were to be considered.

17. For the text of the decision as adopted, see chapter II, section B, decision 1994/101.

18. With respect to its resolutions 1993/93, entitled "Human rights in El Salvador" and 1993/88, entitled "Assistance to Guatemala in the field of human rights", the Commission accepted the recommendation of its officers to postpone the decision as to the agenda item under which the questions would be considered.

19. At the 47th meeting, on 1 March 1994, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Guatemala, Ms. Mónica Pinto, introduced her report (E/CN.4/1994/10).

20. At the same meeting, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in El Salvador, Mr. Pedro Nikken, introduced his report (E/CN.4/1994/11).

F. Meetings, resolutions and documentation

21. Of the 69 meetings held by the Commission ... were extended to the equivalent of ... additional meetings.

22. The resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission at the session are contained in chapter II of the present report. Draft resolutions and decisions for action by the Economic and Social Council are set out in chapter I.

23. Annex III contains estimates of the administrative and programme budget implications of resolutions and decisions of the Commission, prepared in accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

24. Annex IV contains a list of documents issued for the fiftieth session of the Commission.

G. Visits

25. At the 2nd meeting, on 1 February 1994, Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, addressed the Commission.

26. At the same meeting, Mrs. Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan, addressed the Commission. At the 3rd meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of India and Pakistan.

27. At the 3rd meeting, on 1 February 1994, Mr. Georges Papandreou, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece, addressed the Commission on behalf of the European Union.

28. At the 4th meeting, on 2 February 1994, Mr. Heikki Haavisto, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, addressed the Commission.

29. At the 6th meeting, on 3 February 1994, Mr. Manmohan Singh, Minister of Finance of India, addressed the Commission.

30. At the 7th meeting, on 3 February 1994, Mrs. Lucette Michaux-Chevry, Minister Delegate for Humanitarian Activities and Human Rights of France, addressed the Commission.

31. At the 12th meeting, on 8 February 1994, Mr. D. Hogg, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, addressed the Commission.

32. At the 13th meeting, on 8 February 1994, Mr. M. Salaverria, Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, addressed the Commission.

33. At the 14th meeting, on 9 February 1994, Mr. A. Mock, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria, addressed the Commission.

34. At the same meeting, Mrs. S. Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, addressed the Commission.

35. At the 16th meeting, on 10 February 1994, Mr. P.H. Kooijmans, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, addressed the Commission.

36. At the 17th meeting, on 10 February 1994, Mr. S. Daskalov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, addressed the Commission.

37. At the same meeting, Mr. Shimon Peres, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel, addressed the Commission.

38. At the 18th meeting, on 11 February 1994, Mr. G. Chicoti, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Angola, addressed the Commission.

39. At the 20th meeting, on 14 February 1994, Mr. F. Vega Santa-Gadea, Minister for Justice of Peru, addressed the Commission.

40. At the 27th meeting, on 17 February 1994, Mr. M.S. Alsahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, addressed the Commission.

41. At the same meeting, Mr. H. Algabid, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, addressed the Commission.

42. At the 28th meeting, on 17 February 1994, Mr. Girma Wakjira, Chief Special Prosecutor of Ethiopia, addressed the Commission.

43. At the 29th meeting, on 17 February 1994, the representative of India made a statement in exercise of the right of reply or its equivalent.

44. At the 30th meeting, on 18 February 1994, Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Hien, Deputy Minister for Justice of Viet Nam, addressed the Commission.

45. At the 34th meeting, on 22 February 1994, Mrs. G. Mongella, Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference of Women, addressed the Commission.

46. At the 38th meeting, on 24 February 1994, Mr. Mate Granic, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, addressed the Commission.

47. At the same meeting, Mr. Stojan Andov, President of the Assembly of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, addressed the Commission.

48. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 February 1994, Mr. Habib Ben Yahia, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, addressed the Commission.

49. At the 46th meeting, on 1 March 1994, Mr. Gabariel Roric, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Sudan, addressed the Commission.

50. At the same meeting, Mr. Jean-Marie Ngendahayo, Minister of State of Burundi, addressed the Commission.

51. At the 49th meeting, on 2 March 1994, Mr. J.-B. Aristide, President of the Republic of Haiti, addressed the Commission.

52. At the 50th meeting, on 2 March 1994, Mr. Ieng Mouly, Minister for Information of Cambodia, addressed the Commission.